DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1953-1954

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DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

from 1st April 1953,

to 31st March 1954

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DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1953-54

CHAIRMAN :

REVD. SUBDEAN T. G. SHELMERDINE, 9, Liverey Dole, Exeter

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

A. J. WITHYCOMBE, ESQ., Redcot, Streatham Drive, Exeter

MEMBERS :

R. H. BAKER, ESQ., J.P., Millbrook Braunton, N. Devon

DR. E. D. IRVINE, 5, Southernhay West, Exeter

G. W. A. JACKSON, ESQ., 44, Queen Street, Exeter

C. A JACKSON, ESQ., Moortang, Two Mile Oak, Newton Abbot

W. MADDICOTT, ESQ., Rowdens, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot (Died, February, 1954)

MRS. J. D. R. MURRAY, 12, Carlton Hill, Exmouth

ALDERMAN MRS. J. M. PHILLIPS, O.B.E., J.P., Awliscombe House, Honiton

DR. H. SCOTT-FORBES, 8, Baring Crescent, Exeter

MRS. M. L. SYMONS, J.P., Petersfield House, Fortescue Road Paignton

MISS A. E. TUCKER, Primrose Cottage, King's Nympton, N. Devon

J. G. WARNE, ESQ., 97, Bonhay Road, Exeter

GROUP OFFICIALS :

Group Secretary : D. W. Miller, F.H.A.,
Deputy Group Secretary : S. W. Keyte, A.H.A.
} Exminster Hospital, Exminster, Exeter

Finance Officer : R. E. Wilman, A.C.A., F.H.A.,
Deputy Finance Officer : C. H. Heath, A.I.M.T.A., F.H.A.,
} 26, Queen St., Exeter

SUB-COMMITTEES

Finance :

All the Members of the Management Committee

House :

EXMINSTER HOSPITAL :

SIR JOHN E. DAW *(CHAIRMAN)*
SIR ARTHUR C. REED *(VICE-CHAIRMAN)*
R. H. BAKER, ESQ., J.P.
MAJOR H. C. GOULD (Died, May, 1954)
W. T. HARVEY, ESQ.
MRS. R. M. A. HODGE
C. A. JACKSON, ESQ.
MRS. C. A. JACKSON
MRS. E. KELLY
E. T. LINSCOTT, ESQ.
MISS B. PARKER
DR. H. SCOTT-FORBES
MRS. M. L. SYMONS, J.P.
REVD. SUBDEAN T. G. SHELMERDINE
MISS A. E. TUCKER
J. G. WARNE, ESQ.
A. J. WITHYCOMBE, ESQ.

DIGBY AND WONFORD HOUSE HOSPITALS :

J. G. WARNE, ESQ. *(CHAIRMAN)*
A. J. WITHYCOMBE, ESQ. *(VICE-CHAIRMAN)*
W. H. GODDARD, ESQ.
MRS. R. M. A. HODGE
DR. E. D. IRVINE
G. W. A. JACKSON, ESQ.
MRS. J. D. R. MURRAY
ALD. H. C. PEDRICK
ALD. MRS. J. M. PHILLIPS, O.B.E., J.P.
DR. H. SCOTT-FORBES
REVD. SUBDEAN T. G. SHELMERDINE
MRS. E. E. TINKHAM
COL. C. P. TREMLETT
MISS A. E. TUCKER

Farm :

W. MADDICOTT, ESQ., *(CHAIRMAN)* (Died, February, 1954)

R. LAWRENCE, ESQ., *(VICE-CHAIRMAN)* (Died, June, 1954)

J. CROOK, ESQ.
G. W. A. JACKSON, ESQ.
J. B. MARTIN, ESQ.
J. G. PAUL, ESQ.
P. D. ROWSELL, ESQ.
REVD. SUBDEAN T. G. SHELMERDINE
J. J. WALE, ESQ.
J. G. WARNE, ESQ.
A. J. WITHYCOMBE, ESQ.

Works :

REVD. SUBDEAN T. G. SHELMERDINE *(CHAIRMAN)*

SIR JOHN E. DAW
C. A. JACKSON, ESQ
G. W. A. JACKSON, ESQ.
SIR ARTHUR C. REED
MRS. M. L. SYMONS, J.P.
J. G. WARNE, ESQ.
A. J. WITHYCOMBE, ESQ.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee has pleasure in presenting its Annual Report for the year ending March 31st, 1954.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Maddicott, who had been connected with the administration of Exminster Hospital for many years. He was appointed to the new Hospital Management Committee in July, 1948 and he acted most efficiently as Chairman of the Farm Sub-Committee since that date. He was sincerely interested in this work and we shall miss his sage counsel.

Mrs. J. D. R. Murray resigned from the Committee at the end of the year. This was necessitated by pressure of other public duties and is a matter of regret to us all. We welcome as new members Mr. W. B. Hallett, J.P. and Mr. W. H. Goddard. Mr. Hallett has served the Local District Council and the Farmers' Union with great distinction and Mr. Goddard was, during the war, the acting Treasurer and Secretary of Wonford House Hospital.

The House Committees have met regularly and Members have made the statutory visits to the Hospitals and have taken a great interest in the welfare of patients and staff. The Joint Staff Committees have met periodically.

The main problems of the hospitals of this Group, as indeed in all other groups, can be epitomised in one word—shortages. We are short of accommodation, short of funds and short of nurses. The old Prophet, in a moment of frustration, cried : "The BED is shorter than a man can stretch himself on it : and the covering narrower than he can wrap himself in it". We know exactly what he meant. We are overcrowded ; we are financially restricted ; and we are understaffed.

We have diligently sought a solution of the accommodation problem. A special Sub-Committee was set up to consider the grave overcrowding and to this Committee we invited the Medical Officer of Health and the Welfare Officer of the Devon County Council. Fortunately, the Medical Officer of Health of the City of Exeter is a member of the Management Committee. We examined the possibility of boarding out some of our patients and a limited number from Exminster Hospital are now happily housed and cared for. But the real solution and the most effective remedy is the construction of new buildings. At Exminster we are urgently in need of accommodation for the Occupational Therapy Department ; this would release more space for wards. For Digby and Wonford we need a modern admission hospital and some additional wards. We have examined many buildings with a view to their purchase as annexes, but when capital money is again available we feel that a more economic

solution would be the erection of new buildings within the curtilage of the present hospitals.

Restriction of money available for capital expenditure on buildings is not our only financial worry. We learnt in February this year that our allocation of funds for current expenses would be restricted to the amount we had spent in the previous year. Our estimate was £18,000 in excess of this sum. This means that many repairs, renewals and renovations must again be postponed. With the present degree of economy we shall find it hard to pay our way.

The position as to the supply of nurses is no better than a year ago. We are taking part in a Recruitment Campaign in conjunction with the Royal Western Counties Hospital Management Committee, but must sadly report that, to date, the results are poor.

As we write this report we await with some trepidation the report of an investigating committee instructed by the Ministry of Health to enquire into the farms at Exminster and Digby. For many years they have continued to supply these Hospitals with fresh vegetables, fresh milk and fresh meat. It appears that the Ministry is doubtful of the value of our farming activities. My Committee will do all in its power to retain this so great amenity, but for the moment we must accept Mr. Asquith's advice given on another occasion—" Wait and see ".

Improvements which have been completed during the year under review include the provision and equipping of a new ground floor ward at Digby Hospital, made possible by the release of space following the erection of the new sewing room, and the purchase of new drying equipment for the Exminster laundry. At Wonford House a new vegetable preparation room has been provided and improvements made in the accommodation for nurse-training. The installation of new boilers and plant at Exminster is approaching its completion.

The sanitary annexe for ward 17 at Exminster will be completed and in use before this report is published and the annexe for ward 18 has already been commenced. Other improvements at Exminster which are in progress include the male side of the Sanatorium, a lift and new X-ray equipment. We are taking the opportunity of housing this equipment in more suitable accommodation and, when completed, the X-Ray department, which serves the Group, will be in very good order. The installation of new boilers at Digby commenced towards the close of the year under review and it is hoped that they will be in operation before next winter.

Amongst schemes which have been submitted to the Regional Hospital Board for approval are : renewal of the hot water and heating installations at Digby and Wonford House, a lift for Wonford House and garages at Exminster.

Annual Visits have been made to the Hospitals by Commissioners of the Board of Control. We have not followed our previous practice of printing the reports of these visits with our annual report. In each case the report was given detailed consideration and copies were sent to the Regional Hospital Board with our observations.

The social life of the patients, and of the staff, continues to receive the important consideration which it deserves. Christmas festivities and the annual fêtes and sports were enjoyed by all ; as many patients as could appreciate it were taken on motor coach outings during the summer, whilst the weekly programmes of dances, cinema shows, concerts and whist drives continued throughout the year. We particularly wish to mention the Exminster Pantomime which maintained its high standard of production and enthusiasm.

As reported in our last survey, Mr. D. W. Miller was appointed Group Secretary *vice* Mr. R. Seal, in October, 1953. The Committee decided that it would be of great advantage if the Deputy Group Secretary were to be stationed at Exminster and become responsible for the day to day running of that hospital. To this post we appointed Mr. S. W. Keyte and, though belated, we give him a hearty welcome. Mr. J. Gapper, who had renderred excellent service at Exminster, was " translated " to Digby as Hospital Secretary.

My Committee would wish to thank whole-heartedly the Hospital Staffs—Medical, Nursing, Administrative, Technical and Ancillary. Their loyalty and devotion to duty is above praise.

In conclusion, reference must be made to the impending resignation of Dr. Mullin, the Medical Superintendent of Wonford House Hospital. The staff and patients of that hospital will lose a beloved physician and in the Group we shall miss his wise counsel and his complete unselfishness, so evident when it was necessary to make adjustments of finance and accommodation within the Group. We wish him and Mrs. Mullin many happy years of retirement and we are especially glad to know that, living in close proximity at Lympstone, he will be available from time to time as locum tenens.

T. G. SHELMERDINE,

Chairman.

August, 1954.

EXMINSTER HOSPITAL

Medical Staff

Medical Superintendent :

S. M. ALLAN, M.D., Ch.B. (Glas.) D.P.M. (Lond.)

Senior Hospital Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Superintendent :

J. W. FISHER, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.P.M.

Senior Hospital Medical Officers :

T. J. K. BROWNLEES, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.M.

A. JACK, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.)

Junior Hospital Medical Officers :

J. R. ROCYN-JONES, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)

C. P. BURGES, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

R. W. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

Officers

Secretary : S. W. KEYTE, A.H.A.

Steward : W. CONNETT

Matron : MISS I. PRIDHAM, S.R.N., R.M.P.A.

Chief Male Nurse : W. H. NEWNS, S.R.N., R.M.N.

Engineer : J. FAIRCLOUGH

Clerk of Works' : T. E. REDDAWAY

Farm Manager : G. L. COLLINGS

Pharmacist : B. C. T. SNOW, Ph.C., F.P.S.

Laboratory Technician : M. C. LANGLEY, A.I.M.L.T.

Church of England Chaplain : REV. W. PARRY, B.A.

Roman Catholic Priest : REV. P. J. TOBIN

Free Church Chaplain : REV. R. H. NORMAN

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1953

EXMINSTER HOSPITAL,
NEAR EXETER

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Medical Superintendent's Report for the year 1953.

As will be noted, the number of admissions has fallen slightly on the previous year, the main reason being the consistently higher population in the Hospital. From time to time a waiting list for voluntary patients had to be instituted. The increased use of out-patient treatment at the hospital and at Bideford Hospital has also contributed to the lower admission rate.

On the 1st January 1953, there were 1625 patients on the Register, and 6 Emergency Admissions; 618 males and 1007 females, plus 3 males and 3 females.

Classification of the above :—

	Male	Female	Total
Voluntary	146	177	323
Temporary	–	1	1
Certified	472	829	1301
	618	1007	1625
Emergency Admissions Sec. 20/21	3	3	6
	621	1010	1631

Admissions

Including statutory transfers, the admissions were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Voluntary	186	202	388
Temporary	1	8	9
Certified	71	108	179
	258	318	576

Emergency Admissions

Section 20/21. 101 males, 109 females—Total 210. Of the total emergency admissions 176 became Voluntary patients, 1 a Temporary patient and 9 Certified patients. (These figures are included in the direct admissions shown above). Ten Emergency Admissions were discharged and 8 died, leaving 6 remaining on the 31st December, 1953.

Discharges

	Male	Female	Total
Recovered	113	143	256
Improved	66	93	159
Not Improved	6	10	16
	185	246	431

Resident

There were on the books at the end of the year 1628 patients and 6 Emergency patients, classified as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Voluntary	169	212	381
Temporary	–	1	1
Certified	454	792	1246
	623	1005	1628
Emergency Admissions	3	3	6
	626	1008	1634

Deaths

There were 150 deaths (72 males, 78 females), a decrease of 8 on the previous year and no less than 42 on 1951. Again a great majority of the deaths were of patients over 65 years. Eight patients died while on Emergency Orders, and a large number of the others were very recent admissions.

Little has been done to lighten the burden on mental hospitals as far as the Geriatric cases are concerned.

General Health

There were no epidemics during the year and few cases of an infectious nature. Only two cases of tuberculosis were notified and these were non-pulmonary.

Our chief nursing problem is of the old patient. To show what can be done with good nursing a geriatric ward of 53 female patients has

an average of only 5 patients permanently in bed. This is a great credit on all concerned in this work.

Treatment Units

The Insulin Therapy units treated 81 patients during 1953, an increase of 21 on 1952. The number of these patients discharged recovered was 58. This method of treatment requires great skill in both medical and nursing staffs ; and a constant vigilance is also necessary. Our depleted staff deserve great praise for their work in these departments.

Electric Convulsive Therapy, almost a specific treatment in the depressive states, is given with general anæsthesia and a relaxant drug. The results continue to be most gratifying. In the more chronic types of patient maintenance treatment has proved its worth and made life tolerable for them.

Our Occupational Therapy Departments continue to expand but we are still patiently waiting for the new buildings that will enhance the value of this work. It is not possible at present to classify patients as much as is necessary and this does lead at times to a sense of frustration. It is to be hoped that another year will not pass without a start being made on the promised buildings.

Clinics

The Bideford Clinic continues to expand and has almost reached the limit of what can be done there in one afternoon a week. In 1953, 460 patients attended including 117 new patients. Outpatient treatment has undoubtedly relieved the pressure on the main hospital, but there is now need for a larger staff to cope with the increased work. At Exeter the number of patients attending was 186.

Entertainments

Cinema shows, dancing, musical programmes and the Pantomime and Plays are still provided for the patients. All the work in connection with these shows is done by the staff whose Dramatic Club is a very active and lively organisation. It is entirely a spare-time occupation and great credit is due to them for their unselfish endeavours.

Nursing Staff

Charge Nurse P. F. Morrish retired during the year after 30 years' service. He was given a presentation by the staff for his good work in the Hospital.

Mr. A. J. Connett, Charge Nurse, who had been a most valuable member of the nursing staff for 28 years died in August, 1953. He left a widow and one son to whom we send our sympathy.

The recruitment of female staff and indeed of male staff as well

is far from satisfactory. The number of student nurses falls slowly year by year in spite of every kind of propaganda. It is difficult to suggest a remedy but one must be found if the Mental Health Service is to function properly.

Since 1952 we have recruited 45 French student nurses, and of these there are at present 27 remaining.

I should like here to record my thanks to all members of the nursing staff for the hard work, and the splendid work they are doing.

Laboratory Report

Bacteriological	894
Biochemical	601
Hæmatological	515
Histological	8

During the year 55 post-mortems were carried out.

Farm Report

The farm, after its reorganisation in 1952, has been most successful. The yield of milk has greatly increased and this has been of great help to the Hospital. The farm is also used by the Occupational Therapy Department as a training ground for convalescent patients and a work outlet for the more chronic patients. The Farm Manager, Mr. G. L. Collings, who was appointed in April, 1953, has co-operated enthusiastically.

Clerk of Works' Department

As in former years the work to be done is far greater than the staff can do. It is a losing battle that is being fought but in spite of that a great deal has been accomplished. Three wards and their approach corridors have been redecorated in tasteful colour schemes.

The daily routine of great and minor repairs absorbs much labour so that more ambitious schemes have continually to be postponed. Such work as repairs and renewal of guttering must be done, hot and cold water supplies kept in order, dangerous roofs and chimney stacks repaired and so on.

It is to be hoped that additional staff will be allotted to this Hospital to cope with all that is needed to keep it running.

The present staff are to be congratulated on the fine work they do.

Engineer's Department

There was a major reconstruction carried out in the laundry. A new 8-roll calender was installed and this necessitated more or less everything being moved around. The new machinery is working efficiently.

The two new boilers installed in 1952 were moved into their final position. New feed pumps and coal conveyor were completed, and three engines installed in the Engine-room.

A great amount of day to day repairs was carried out and as in the other department there are too few men to do them. A dozen jobs are always waiting. During the year for instance, much electrical rewiring had to be done, safety guards made to working machines, tea urns installed in six wards, 4" steam mains carried to certain wards together with hot and cold water mains. Truly a never ending job.

The staff have done their work really well.

General

Mr. Seal, the Group Secretary, who had served this Hospital for nearly 40 years, retired during 1953. He had given most careful and efficient service. He was a pleasant colleague, well liked by everyone and all wish him long life in his retirement.

Mr. J. Baker, the Farm Manager, retired after 24 years' service. His farming abilities were well known in Devon. Shortly before he left he was engaged in restocking the whole farm, a formidable last task. He too leaves with the good wishes of all.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Management Committee for their help and guidance and for the confidence they always show.

I sincerely thank my medical colleagues who have worked hard under difficult conditions. I also wish to thank all officers and staff for the loyal way they have worked during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
S. M. ALLAN,
Medical Superintendent.

September, 1954.

DIGBY HOSPITAL

Medical Staff

Medical Superintendent :
J. RUSSELL, M.B., Ch.B., (Glas.) D.P.M.

Senior Hospital Medical Officer & Deputy Medical Superintendent :
J. SCOTT, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., (N.U.I.,) D.P.M., L.M., (Coombe)

Officers

Hospital Secretary : J. GAPPER, A.H.A.

Matron : Miss F. N. HENRY, S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., M.R.C.N

Chief Male Nurse : L. R. HARWOOD, S.R.N., R.M.N.

Chief Engineer and Clerk of Works' : D. GIBSON

Farm Manager : H. J. HOOPER

Pharmacist : E. HODGE, M.P.S.

Church of England Chaplain : REVD. G. E. DEANE

Free Church Chaplain : REVD. P. L. JONES

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY, 1953, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1953

DIGBY HOSPITAL.

To : The Devon Mental Hospital Management Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Report for the year 1953 which ended with 391 patients in residence, the maximum number on any one night during the year having been 408 as compared with 382 in the previous year. (Increase 26).

The following figures are submitted by the Clerk :—

On the Registers, 1st January, 1953 :—

	Males	Females	Total
Voluntary	36	39	75
Temporary	–	1	1
Certified	144	155	299
	180	195	375
Sec. 20/21	–	1	1
	180	196	376

Admissions

(Including statutory transfers)

	Males	Females	Total
Voluntary	48	68	116
Temporary	1	2	3
Certified	13	17	30
	62	87	149

Discharges

	Males	Females	Total
Recovered	19	31	50
Improved	16	24	40
Not Improved	13	11	24
	48	66	114

Deaths	12	10	22

Remaining on the Registers, 31st December, 1953 :—

	Males	Females	Total
Voluntary	35	40	75
Temporary	–	1	1
Certified	147	165	312
	182	206	388
Sec. 20/21	2	1	3
	184	207	391

Emergency

(Sec. 20/21 admissions) :

	Males	Females	Total
Number admitted during the year	36	45	81
* Of these, subsequently treated as :			
Voluntary	15	31	46
Temporary	1	2	3
Certified	6	5	11
Died	1	1	2
Left the Hospital	11	6	17
Remaining on 31st Dec., 1953	2	1	3

* Those subsequently treated as Voluntary, etc. patients are included in the admissions above.

The demand on our beds, especially for women patients, is undiminished. No additional ward has been provided during the year to mitigate overcrowding and it becomes more and more difficult to treat our patients. Voluntary patients tend to leave too soon with risk of subsequent relapse.

Nurse Training

There has been no improvement in the recruiting of student nurses. The scheme formulated in my Report last year for a link with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital is temporarily held up pending reorganisation within the Mental Hospital Group.

Staff Changes

Mr. D. W. Miller, who had been with us since 1948, became Group Secretary, and we welcomed as Hospital Secretary, Mr. Jesse Gapper, whose pleasing personality and talents had previously done much to foster good relations between the Hospitals in the Group.

Mr. L. R. Harwood, S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., who had already made a name for himself as the Tutor of the Group Combined Preliminary Training School, succeeded Mr. C. S. Poynton, S.R.N., R.M.N., as Chief Male Nurse on the latter's appointment to a similar office at Bracebridge Heath Hospital, Lincolnshire.

Miss A. O'Brien, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., RM.N., R.M.P.A., who came to us with excellent experience from the Services, was appointed Deputy Matron, and Miss E. L. Skipper, S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., was appointed Night Sister. These two offices have long been vacant and, with the appointment of Mr. John Foster, S.R.N., R.M.N., (*vice* Mr. R. Vinten, S.R.N., R.M.N., moved to a principal post at Three Counties' Hospital, Arlesley) as Tutor of the Training School, it is felt that the nursing and teaching facilities of this Hospital have been considerably enhanced.

The new appointments of Mr. Miller, Mr. Poynton and Mr. Vinten are regarded as promotions within the Health Service and they do credit to this Hospital. Each of these gentlemen carries the good wishes of our staff.

The following members of the Staff retired after long and faithful service :—

Deputy Chief Male Nurse R. Rose after 32 years' service,
Nursing Assistant William Kiff after 34 years' service,
Plumber Ernest Channing after 26 years' service.

Examination Successes

Student Nurse Victor C. Russell passed the State Preliminary Examination. Mrs. J. Ingham, Miss B. L. Drew, Mr. J. Foster and Mr. W. T. R. Hooper passed the Final Examination in Mental Nursing and Mr. C. L. P. Gibbons passed the Final Examination in General Nursing.

General

All Officers and their departments have given me whole-hearted support during a difficult year. In acknowledging this, I would point out—as I did last year—that permanent solutions for the difficulties under which the staff work will only be found in new buildings ; simple structures of the bungalow type adjacent to and serviced from the main building.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN RUSSELL,

Medical Superintendent.

June, 1954.

WONFORD HOUSE HOSPITAL

Medical Staff

Medical Superintendent :
B. J. MULLIN, M.C., L.R.C.P. & S. (I.), D.P.H., D.P.M.

Junior Hospital Medical Officer .
C. P. O'TOOLE, L.R.C.P. & S. (I.)

Officers

Matron : Miss E. A. LENTON, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M.

Chief Male Nurse : T. T. HAY, S.R.N., R.M.N.

Administrative Assistant : J. K MORRIS, A.H.A.

Pharmacist : E. HODGE, M.P.S.

Chaplain : Revd. W. A. P. GLENN, A.K.C.

Free Church Chaplain : Revd. P. L. JONES

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1953

Wonford House Hospital,
Exeter

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Medical Superintendent's Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1953. The following is a summary of the statistics :—

There were on the Hospital Books on the 1st January, 1953, the names of 157 patients, 53 male and 104 female. Eighty-six patients were admitted, 55 were discharged, and 18 died, leaving 170 patients, 59 male and 111 female on the Register on the 31st December, 1953.

Regradings were as follows :—

One female voluntary patient to temporary status ; 1 female certified patient to voluntary status ; 1 female temporary patient to certified status. One female certified patient was re-certified on the lapsing of the Reception Order.

Admissions

Admissions according to sex and status :—

	Male	Female	Total
Voluntary	20	47	67
Temporary	–	2	2
Certified	3	14	17
	23	63	86

The increase in the number of female patients continued and it was impossible to accommodate the number of elderly patients seeking admission. The wards for these patients, all on the ground floor, are overcrowded and few vacancies occur. It is seldom that a senile patient is discharged to the care of relatives. The need for additional accommodation is urgent and fully recognised.

The admission wards for early recoverable cases were comfortably full and allowed good classification. All the direct admissions to these wards were on a non-certified basis. The wards are attractively furnished, with a pleasant outlook on the lawns and gardens.

Patients admitted from disturbed homes and work conditions, respond quickly to the peaceful atmosphere. Psychotherapy is the basic treatment. Electroplexy, modified insulin and prolonged narcosis were employed when indicated.

An 8-bed dormitory was opened on the male side.

Discharges and Deaths

Discharges and Deaths according to sex and status :—

	Male	Female	Total
Voluntary	14	45	59
Temporary	–	1	1
Certified	3	10	13
	17	56	73

The total number of patients discharged was 55 of whom 16 were recovered, 31 relieved and 8 not improved. Eighteen patients died, 3 male and 15 female. The average age at death was 74 years. An inquest was held on a female patient who died from barbiturate poisoning.

General Health

There were no epidemics and no cases of contagious disease. The health of the patients and the staff was satisfactory.

Nurse Training

The conversion of the Committee Room in the centre into a lecture and demonstration room has proved most satisfactory, especially as it is so accessible to both the male and female sides of the Hospital. The students attend the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exminster Hospital and Digby Hospital for wider and more varied experience.

I regret there is no improvement in the recruitment of student nurses during the year ; no male students and only 2 female students joined.

Congratulations are due to Mr. K. Buck on passing the Final Examination of the General Nursing Council and Miss A. Rawlings and Miss F. Stone on passing the Preliminary Examination.

Staff Changes

Dr. S. Bradshaw, Junior Hospital Medical Officer, resigned in August on taking up another appointment.

Mr. W. J. Tripe, Gardener, retired on pension after 14½ years' service.

Miss H. K. Buckett, S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., was appointed Deputy Matron in July.

Redecorations and Improvements

The redecoration of the female wards and galleries was completed and work is now in progress on the male side of the Hospital. Additional sanitary and bathing facilities in a number of wards and the Medical Officer's quarters were completed.

In the Kitchen a new vegetable preparation room and the conversion of the old scullery into a cold storage room were useful additions. The Kitchen is now well equipped for the preparation and cooking of food. The conveyances of food to the top floors will not be satisfactory until suitable lifts are provided for the purpose.

A Hospital Shop was opened in January, 1953, and has proved a great success.

The practical suggestions and initiative of the Administrative Officer (Mr. Morris) contributed largely in making these structural alterations possible.

Statutory visits were made by the Commissioners of the Board of Control and the Ministry of Pensions.

I am happy to report upon the loyal and efficient co-operation of the Medical Officer, the Heads of Departure and the Staff generally, to whom my heartiest thanks are due.

In conclusion, I would thank you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for your support and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

B. J. MULLIN,

Medical Superintendent.

July, 1954.

DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Summary of Accounts—Year to 31st March, 1954

HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE	£	£
Gross salaries and wages (Including National Insurance and Superannuation)	306,555	
Provisions	118,458	
Uniforms and Clothing	14,498	
Drugs, dressings, medical and surgical equipment	6,896	
Fuel, light, power, water and laundry ...	39,440	
Maintenance of buildings, plant and grounds ...	21,953	
Domestic repairs, renewals and replacements ...	21,749	
All other expenses	76,001	
		605,550
LESS : Direct Credits (Staff board and lodging, Canteens, Farms and Gardens, etc.) ...		88,960
		516,590
ADD : Group Administration		1,662
Total expenditure		£518,252

INCOME	
Accommodation and treatment of patients in single rooms and small wards	12,388
Rents and other miscellaneous income ...	443
Total income	£ 12,831

ENDOWMENT AND OTHER FUNDS

RECEIPTS	CAPITAL £	REVENUE £
From Minister of Health under Section 7 (5) National Health Service Act, 1946		1,545
From other sources : Donations under Section 59 National Health Service Act, 1946		2,052
Cash in hand at 1st April, 1953		4,240
		£ 7,837

PAYMENTS	
For purposes relating to hospital services and research	2,963
Other payments	–
Cash in hand at 31st March, 1954	4,874
	£ 7,837

August, 1954.

GROUP STATISTICS

Patients

The following figures summarise the admission and discharge of patients in the Group hospitals during the year 1953, as dealt with in greater detail in the Reports of the Medical Superintendents :—

	Voluntary, Temporary and Certified Patients		*Patients admitted under sec. 20/21, Lunacy Act, 1890*	
Number of patients on the registers, 1st January, 1953	2157		7	
Admitted during 1953 ...	* 811		† 46	
		2968		46
Discharged during 1953 ...	600		27	
Died during 1953	182		10	
		782		37
Number of patients on the registers, 31st December, 1953...		2186		9

* Includes those patients first admitted under sec. 20/21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and subsequently dealt with as Voluntary, Temporary or Certified patients.

† Excludes those subsequently dealt with as above.

	1953	*1952*
Number of patients resident on 31st December... ...	2182	2137
Of those resident, aged 65 and over	767	757

*Emergency admissions under sec. 20/21, Lunacy Act (included in total admissions, above)	291	194

Nursing Staff

The following figures illustrate the deficiency of nurses, referred to in the Chairman's Report :—

	1953	*1952*
Total number of nurses employed, including part-time nurses, largely unqualified, expressed in full-time units, as at 31st December	398	396
Actual number of part-time nurses, included above	155	147

In October, 1953, an establishment of nursing staff was approved by the Regional Hospital Board. The establishment, together with the number of nurses employed and the deficiency, is as follows :—

	Male nurses	*Female nurses*
Establishment	230	297
Number employed, including part-time nurses expressed as full-time units, as at 31st December, 1953	174	224
Deficiency	56	73

Student nurse establishment (included in the total establishment)	64	88
Students as at 31st December, 1953 ...	27	48
Deficiency of students	37	40

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